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Amendment dated 03/29/2004

Reply to office action mailed 12/29/2003

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Problem Data

Consider a family of desktop computers that consists of six different end products, denoted PC 1 – PC 6, which are configured from a set of ~~18~~ 17 different components, or building blocks. The components are obtained from external suppliers with different supply leadtimes. Table 1 summarizes the data used in the numerical study, including the unit cost of each component and the supply leadtime (including time for shipment).